

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Summary

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B. Armed ForcesI. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

Soviet press reports of 10 August mentioned Gen. A.I. Shebunin, so far Chief of the Main Administration for Military Constructions of the Ministry of Defense, as Deputy Minister of Defense for Military Constructions and Location of Troops.

Comment. So far, Gen V.I. Belokoskow has held this post.

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Soviet press reports of 12 August mentioned Gen S.P. Ivanov as acting Commander of the Kiev MD.

Comment. Gen S.P. Ivanov was mentioned in the following positions: Sep 1941, Brig Gen and Chief of Staff of Fifty-First Army on the Crimea; Jan 1943 - May 1943, Maj Gen and Chief-of-Staff of the Southwestern Front; Jun 1943 - Feb 1944, Chief-of-Staff of the Voronezh and later the First Ukrainian Front; Dec 1944 - May 1945, Chief-of-Staff of the Third Ukrainian Front; Aug 1945, Gen and presumably Chief-of-Staff of the High Command of Soviet Forces in the Far East; 1946 - 1947, Chief-of-Staff of the White Russian MD; 1948, presumably Chief-of-Staff of the Carpathian MD; 1949-1953, Chief-of-Staff of GSFG; at present, presumably Chief-of-Staff of the Kiev MD.

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S.P. Ivanov is "Hero of the USSR" and was awarded the following orders: twice the "Lenin" Order, thrice the "Red Banner" Order, the "Kutuzov" Order First Class, the "Golden Star" Medal, and presumably several other orders and medals.

II. CzechoslovakiaUnited Headquarters (Warsaw Pact)

Soviet officers, reportedly three generals, were observed in a sedan [] at an exercise of Czech troops in the Kaesmark-Deutschendorf (Kozmarok - Poprad) area in Slovakia between 16 and 18 July 1958 []

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Comment. Soviet officers including one general and two majors had already been observed in Kaesmark in Oct/Nov 1957. This is another indication of the presence in Czechoslovakia of Soviet advisors. Kaesmark is known as firing range for AT guns, AA guns and tanks.

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C. ArmyI. USSR1. Training (GDR)

In addition to training activities near posts, firing practices of arty and AAA units at the usual firing ranges and formation training at tng grounds, an exercise was held during the period under review, in which [redacted]

[redacted] elms of three divisions and Army troops participated.

The following was observed:

a. Command-Post Exercise in the Southern Area of the GDR between 6 and 9 August

- 6 Aug, large mtz columns of elms/First Gds Meoz Army (Tank) passed through Meissen in southwestern direction. Columns of elms/8th Gds Meoz Div, including radio trucks, observed between Wurzen and Orschatz;
- 9 Aug, two return shipments, presumably of GSFG signal units from Spereenberg and Wuesendorf;
- 9 and 10 Aug, elms/Third Gds Meoz Army returned to Jueterbog and Forst Zinna in 7 shipments;
- 9 Aug, eight shipments with more than 300 vehicles were loaded in Jena and left in northern direction.

[redacted] Comment. The new information on this exercise confirms the participation of elms directly subordinate to GSFG, elms/First Gds Meoz Army (Tank) and elms/Third Gds Meoz Army, including elms/14th and 8th Gds Meoz Div. The transfer of units/Eighth Gds Army (Meoz), especially units/20th Gds Meoz Div (Tank), has not been observed, since the exercise ended in the quartering area of these units.

b. Exercise in the Lieberose Tng Grounds Area

- 8/9 Aug, elms/22nd Gds Engr Bn/6th Gds Meoz Div entrained in Eberswalde and were shipped to Beeskow in two shipments;
- 9-11 Aug, tank, mtz rifle and arty elms/1st Meoz Div entrained in Dallgow, Priort and Berlin-Schoeneweide and left in four shipments in direction of Halle and/or Cottbus district;
- 10 Aug, five shipments left Forst Zinna, incl three to Halle district and two to Storkow; one tank shipment passed through Spereenberg in direction Zossen;
- 10 Aug, columns, including arty, passed through Peitz in northern direction;
- 11 Aug, tank, mtz rifle and arty elms/6th Gds Meoz Div from Bernau transferred to Cottbus district in three shipments;
- 11/12 Aug, two shipments from Fuerstenwalde to Cottbus district; four shipments from Greifswald district to Storkow;
- 12 Aug, one shipment from Greifswald district to Cottbus district

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[] Comment. An exercise of the Twentieth Army, including elms/Third Gds Mecz Army may have taken place in the Lieberose tng grounds area after 12 Aug, probably involving the following units:

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elms/1st Mecz Div
elms/6th Gds Mecz Div
elms/14th Gds Mecz Div

probably elms Army unit/Twentieth Army.

Of the 22 observed shipments, four shipments (Greifswald district - Storkow) could not yet be identified; they may indicate a participation of NVA units. In 1957, an exercise on so large a scale, with units of two armies participating, had taken place only during the second half of August. The fact that, in 1958, the exercise was held already in early August tends to indicate a high training level of Soviet units in the GDR, especially, since the armies involved had been affected by the reorganization following the reductions in the spring of 1958. Observations so far made do not yet permit to determine the development of the exercise.

c. Additional Training

- 4 and 7/8 Aug, elms/18th Mecz Div returned to Ludwigslust-Techentin in about 9 shipments;
- 9 Aug, tank firing detail/10th Gds Tank Div presumably returned to Wildpark from Lieberose tng grounds in one shipment;
- 10 Aug, RL detail/6th Gds Mecz Div presumably returned to Eberswalde in one shipment from firing practices at Justerbog.

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[] Comment. As usually at that time of the year, training concentrated on combined arms exercises, mainly at tng grounds; arty and tank firing practices continued, while the so far intensive engr training decreased.

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2. Armament and Equipment

- 12 Aug, among other engr equipment, about 45 two-axle special trucks with new-type steel pontoons were observed north of Dreden marching in a southern direction. Trucks and equipment appeared to be factory-new.

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[] Comment. A supply shipment for the u/i Engr Regt/First Gds Mecz Army (Tank) may have been concerned. Such new-type bridge building equipment has so far not been observed with GSFG units. Further information is required for exact identification.

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II. GDR

1. Training

- a. Although training at tng grounds and firing ranges was slowing down, units of the 3rd and 5th MD kept arriving until early August, as, for instance, units/8th Mtz Rifle Div which were detrained at Malliss and arrived in Luebtheen prior to 5 August []

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On 3 Aug, shipments from the Southern MD left in the direction of Wustrow. After 10 Aug, mainly return shipments from the grounds and firing ranges were observed [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Most of the units have returned to their posts. On termination of this training period, training activity will presumably resume at another level.

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- b. The following was excerpted from an article of the August issue of a GDR military review:
- "During the next few weeks and months, combat practice will concentrate on field exercises, which will increase cooperation within troops and units and thus the striking power of the NVA. They will, however, also serve as a test of the training level achieved during the training year. Special importance will be attached to chemical and nuclear defense. Such a training is particularly urgent because of the nuclear armament of the NATO and especially the West German Bundeswehr. It is not without reason that defense training requires the passing of an efficiency test."

2. Order of Battle

The occupation of Herman-Loens Kaserne in Cottbus continued until 5 August; among other materiel, 6 tanks towing twin-barreled guns were unloaded at the freight station; and numerous two-axle and three-axle trucks with billeting equipment arrived by road. T-34/85s were observed at the barracks [redacted]

[redacted] Comment. [redacted] The assumption that a tank unit from Spremberg might be involved (unit/7th Tank Div) has meanwhile been confirmed.

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D. Air ForceI. USSR1. Location of Troopsa. Schoenefeld Airfield

During the first half of August 1958, the Soviet occupation of Schoenefeld airfield was not changed. A relatively large concrete mixing installation was almost completed, but construction work on the runway was not yet started

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Comment. The occupation was not changed. So far, only preparations for the planned extension of the runway have been observed.

b. Leegebruch Radar Station

On 11 August 1958, 1 Kniferest and 1 Fishnet left Leegebruch radar station and were not back by 13 August 1958

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Comment. A temporary absence of 2 to 4 days of 1 Kniferest and 1 Fishnet from Leegebruch radar station has already been observed several times.

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c. Wolfstehringen Emergency Airfield

On 11 August 1958, Wolfstehringen emergency airfield was only occupied by 2 single-engine aircraft

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Comment. This information is received for the first time. The aircraft may belong to an army courier unit.

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2. Command and Training of Troopsa. Oranienburg Airfield

The following air activity was observed between 2 and 12 August 1958:

5 August Li-2s flying in pairs in the airfield area; take-off and landing practices by 2 helicopters.
6 August circuits by 4 high-wing monoplanes
8 August night-flights by Li-2s in the airfield area.
11 August circuits by 2 helicopters.
12 August air activity by Li-2s.

On 4 August 1958, Oranienburg airfield was occupied by 33 Li-2s.

Comment. No change in the occupation of the airfield has taken place. One transport regiment equipped with about 42 Li-2s is stationed at the airfield.

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b. Finstertal Airfield

Between 7 and 31 July 1958, mostly intensive air activity by MiGs was conducted on 13 days. The training program included formation flights by 4 to 6 MiGs, circuits, occasional take-offs in pairs and individual landings. Noteworthy was the frequent and often very intensive night air activity on 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 29 and 31 July 1958

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[] Comment. No changes were occurred. Finsterwalde airfield is presumably occupied by 1 fighter regiment with MiG-15/17s []

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c. Gross Doelln Airfield

On 5 August 1958, there was air activity by MiG-17s flying in formations of 3 and 4 at Gross Doelln airfield. On 6 and 7 August, air activity was conducted by MiG-17s which made circuits at an altitude of 300 to 400 meters with extended landing gear [] On 8 August, intensive air activity by MiG-17s (?) was conducted at high altitudes []

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[] Comment. Gross Doelln airfield is presumably occupied by 1 fighter regiment equipped with 12 MiG-17 Ds and 8 Yak-25s [] The flights with extended landing gear indicate the arrival of new pilots.

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3. Logistics

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- a. On 30 July 1958, there was intensive traffic by tank trucks in the Finsterwalde area [] The new fuel strongly smelled of spirit, contrary to the fuel used so far []

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b. Stendal Airfield

On 8 August 1958, it was observed that, for an extension of the runway in eastern direction, the airfield fence along the Stendal-Borstel road had been removed over the entire width of the runway and an additional 100 meters on either side. The ditches and the area from the end of the runway to the eastern side of the road had been filled up with soil and levelled. []

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[] Comment. A safety zone (stopping area) extends from each end of the runway. The levelling work and the removal of the fence have made possible an extension of the safety zone which had hitherto been too small as a result of the location of the Stendal-Borstel road []

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II. PolandLocation of Troops

The 4th Polish Ground Attack Regiment [] with its BOL, [] transferred from Bydgoszcz to Gollnow-Marsdorf airfield. Prior to 15 July 1957, the 4th Ground Attack Regiment named "Krakow" and the attached ground unit (BOL) had been stationed at Bydgoszcz (53 06 N/17 58 E) airfield, where the 5th Polish Ground Attack Regiment and the attached BOL were also located. By mid-July 1957, re-equipment of these two ground attack regiments from IL-10s to MiG-15s had progressed to such an extent that each regiment had 15 MiG-15s including about 6 UMIGs. Since October 1956, IL-10s have no longer been used for flying activity at Bydgoszcz airfield. On 15 July 1957, the 4th Ground Attack Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Paduch which was subordinated to the Simmtzig Fighter Division and the attached BOL under Captain Michalak transferred to Gollnow-Marsdorf (53 35 N/14 54 E). In August 1957, the regiment had been brought to full aircraft strength, i.e. 48 MiG-15s including some UMIG-15s. The flying qualities of the pilots had not progressed very much [] On the occasion of the inauguration of Gollnow-Marsdorf airfield in late August 1957, three regiments visited the field, including the Simmtzig Fighter Regiment equipped with 48 MiG-15s, another

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fighter regiment also equipped with 48 MiG-15s, and a flying regiment from Sochazew Bielice airfield equipped with 18 IL-28s.

Comment. It has been assumed so far that the fighter regiment stationed at Collnow-Parsdorf had come from Simratzig. This report confirms the assumption that the ground attack regiments, after they had been re-equipped with jet aircraft, will mainly be used for fighter missions. A reconnaissance regiment equipped with IL-28s is assumed to be stationed at Sochazew. It is assumed that the abovementioned 18 IL-28s represent the authorized strength of the regiment.

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